

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend page 13 at paragraphs [0052] – [0054] as follows:

[0052] As a first example, the virtual machine monitor partitions hardware to reduce the overhead. Such a virtual machine monitor is disclosed in assignee's U.S. Ser. No. 10/676,921 filed October 1, 2003 (attorney docket no. 200208635-1), which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0053] As a second example, the first OS instance is booted on the hardware prior to running the VMM (610). When the maintenance is to be performed (612), the VMM is interposed beneath the first operating system instance, the second OS instance is run on the VMM (614), and the maintenance is performed with respect to one of the OS instances while using the other of the instances (616). This method is illustrated in FIG. 6. Interposition of a VMM is disclosed in assignee's U.S. Ser. No. 10/676,557 filed October 1, 2003 (attorney docket no. 200208633-1), which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0054] A third example is illustrated in FIG. 7. A VMM is run on a node (710), and maintenance is performed (712). After the maintenance has been performed, the VMM is devirtualized (714). The devirtualization may be partial or full. Full devirtualization includes devirtualizing the CPU, memory and I/O of the node. Partial devirtualization includes devirtualizing any one or two of the CPU, memory and I/O. Devirtualization of memory is disclosed in assignee's U.S. Ser. No. 10/677,159 filed October 1, 2003 (attorney docket no. 200300561-1), which is incorporated herein by reference; and devirtualization of I/O is disclosed in assignee's U.S. Ser. No. 10/676,922 filed October 1, 2003 (attorney docket no. 200309154-1), which is also incorporated herein by reference. Full devirtualization is also disclosed in assignee's U.S. Ser. No. 10/676,557 filed October 1, 2003 (attorney docket no. 200208633-1). If the VMM is fully devirtualized, it may be unloaded from memory (716).